

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 188304
ORIGIN ARA-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LIMA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 188304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PARM, EAID, PE, EC

SUBJECT: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR CONFERS WITH DAS

1. SUMMARY: PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR GARCIA BEDOYA MET WITH DAS BUSHNELL AT THE FORMER'S REQUEST ON JULY 21. TOPICS DISCUSSED INCLUDED GOP DISSATISFACTION WITH STATEMENTS ABOUT PERU MADE BY ADMIRAL SCHULER AT YATRON SUB-COMMITTEE ARMS SALES HEARING AND DISCONTENT OVER PROPOSED SALE OF VULCAN/CHAPARRAL GROUND TO AIR MISSILE SYSTEM TO ECUADOR. PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR EXPRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT INITIATIVES. HE REITERATED REQUEST FOR PL-480 TITLE I RICE TO COVER 1978 DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SHORTFALL. END SUMMARY

2. GARCIA BEDOYA, AFTER CHARACTERIZING DAS BUSHNELL'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 188304

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE YATRON SUBCOMMITTEE'S HEARINGS ON ARMS SALES IN JUNE AS CLEAR AND POSITIVE, TOOK EXCEPTION TO ADMIRAL SCHULER'S COMMENTS BEFORE THE SAME SUBCOMMITTEE, NAMELY THAT THE USSR HAS MORE MILITARY ADVISORS IN PERU THAN THE US HAS IN LATIN AMERICA AS A WHOLE. NOTING THAT THESE COMMENTS LED TO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE SUBJECT IN HOUSE DEBATE - CONGRESSMAN LARGOMARSINO IS SUPPOSED TO

HAVE REFERRED TO PERU'S ACQUISITION OF ONE HALF OF ECUADOR'S TERRITORY IN THE 1940'S - THE AMBASSADOR CLAIMED THAT OTHERS BECOME PREOCCUPIED, A MISTAKEN IDEA OF REGIONAL PROBLEMS EVOLVES AND TENSIONS ARE RAISED BY SUCH STATEMENTS. ACCORDING TO GARCIA-BEDOYA LARGOMARSINO RAISED THE TERRITORIAL ISSUE IN RELATION TO ECUADOR'S REQUEST TO PURCHASE THE VULCAN/CHAPARRAL GROUND TO AIR MISSILE SYSTEM, POSSIBLY IMPLYING THAT SUCH AN ARMS SALE WOULD PERMIT ECUADOR TO REPULSE THE AGGRESSOR - SUPPOSEDLY PERU. THE AMBASSADOR ARGUED THAT ECUADOR IS NOW NEGOTIATING FOR 24 FRENCH MIRAGE AIRCRAFT TO ADD TO ITS TWELVE JAGUARS AND THESE PLUS THE VULCAN/CHAPARRAL SYSTEM WOULD MAKE THE ECUADOREAN AIR FORCE SIMILAR IN STRENGTH TO THAT OF PERU. WITH A REFERENCE TO CHILE'S F5'S, G-B INSISTED ON THE NEED FOR REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT.

3. DAS BUSHNELL, ADDRESSING THE SCHULER TESTIMONY, NOTED THAT WHILE WE DO NOT KNOW EXACTLY HOW MANY RUSSIAN ADVISORS ARE NOW IN PERU, IT IS PROBABLY CORRECT TO SAY THAT THEIR NUMBER IS LARGER THAN THE TOTAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY ADVISORS WHO WILL BE PRESENT IN LATIN AMERICA BY THE END OF THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR. REFERRING TO ARMS SALES TO ECUADOR, BUSHNELL SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS INEVITABLE, IN VIEW OF PERU'S PAST PURCHASES, THAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 188304

ECUADOR WOULD TRY TO CATCH UP. HE REMINDED G-B THAT A REQUEST FOR OFFENSIVE PLANES HAD BEEN TURNED DOWN AND WHILE INVESTMENT FOR THE DEFENSIVE VULCAN/CHAPARRAL WOULD BE LARGE, OPERATING COSTS WOULD BE LOW WITH LITTLE PERMANENT STRAIN ON THE ECUADOREAN BUDGET.

4. BUSHNELL THEN TURNED THE CONVERSATION TO THE VENEZUELAN AND MEXICAN ARMS RESTRAINT INITIATIVES, AGREEING WITH G-B THAT NEGOTIATIONS MUST BE GRADUAL IF THEY ARE TO RESULT IN SOLID PROGRESS. THE DAS REITERATED USG POLICY OF BEING SUPPORTIVE WHILE REFRAINING FROM TAKING A LEAD. HE NOTED THAT ECUADOR'S RAPIDLY EXPRESSED SUPPORT FOR THE MEXICAN INITIATIVE IS ENCOURAGING AND SUGGESTED THAT THE MEXICAN PROPOSAL BE CONSIDERED AS A TAKEOFF POINT FOR DISCUSSION RATHER THAN A BLUEPRINT FOR AN IMMEDIATE AGREEMENT. G-B STRESSED PERU'S FIRM SUPPORT FOR ARMS RESTRAINT REMINDING THE DAS THAT THE GOP HAD PROPOSED THE AYACUCHO INITIATIVE PRIOR TO PURCHASING NEW MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

5. OTHER TOPICS TOUCHED ON INCLUDED THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (BUSHNELL REMARKING THAT IT SEEMS TO BE

CHANNELLING POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN A POSITIVE WAY),

SATISFACTION AT PERU'S HAVING RATIFIED THE AMERICAN CONVENTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE MUTUAL HOPE THAT US RATIFICATION WOULD NOT BE INDEFINITELY DELAYED, AND THE ENCOURAGING NEWS THAT THE GOP HAS REACHED AN AGREEMENT ON A STANDBY WITH THE IMF TEAM VISITNG LIMA.

6. GARCIA BEDOYA'S FINAL POINT CONCERNED PERU'S 50,000 METRIC TON SHORTFALL IN RICE PRODUCTION AND THE GOP'S REQUEST FOR PL-480 TITLE I ASSISTANCE. DAS BUSHNELL REITERATED THAT NO MORE PL-480 TITLE I FUNDS ARE LIKELY TO BE AVAILABLE FOR PERU THIS FISCAL YEAR,
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PAGE 04 STATE 188304

THAT PERU MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER PURCHASES OF RICE WITH CCC CREDIT AND THAT WE WILL LOOK INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF PL-480 TITLE I RICE FOR DELIVERY EARLY IN THE NEW FISCAL YEAR. VANCE

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